IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 7, 10 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, add new Claim 12, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage media control circuit for controlling inputs [[to]] and outputs to and from a plurality of types of storage media of different shapes and specifications, comprising:

detection terminals ~~provided~~ for detecting a state of connection of respective ones of the storage media of the plurality of types ~~for detecting state of connection of each storage medium~~; ~~and~~

input/output terminals for ~~inputting data to and outputting data from~~ inputting and outputting bi-directional input/output data to and from a storage medium whose connection has been detected by said detection terminals; ~~, wherein the number of input/output terminals is equal to the number of input/output signals of whichever storage medium has the largest number of input/output signals among the storage media of the plurality of types.~~

buffers connected to the input/output terminals and holding at least one of output data and bi-directional input/output data, wherein the number of output signal buffers for holding output data and the number of input/output signal buffers for holding bi-directional input/output data is controllably settable;

interface controllers for controlling interface to respective ones of the storage media of the plurality of types; and

control means between the interface controllers and the buffers, for selecting one interface controller from among the interface controllers and connecting the selected interface controller to the buffers, and for setting the number of output signal buffers and the number of input/output signal buffers, wherein the selecting and the setting are based on signals from the detection terminals.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an interrupt generator for generating an interrupt signal upon detecting a change in the connection state of a storage medium from an AND output of signals from the detection terminals.

4. (Original) The circuit according to claim 1, wherein the storage media of the plurality of types are memory cards using semiconductor storage elements.

5. (Original) The circuit according to claim 4, wherein the memory cards include at least one among a compact flash card, a memory stick, a smart media card, an SD card, a multimedia card and an xD picture card.

6. (Original) The circuit according to claim 1, wherein the circuit is formed as a single semiconductor device.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A printing apparatus comprising a storage media control circuit and a slot unit;

said storage media control circuit controlling inputs [[to]] and outputs ~~to~~ ~~and~~ from a plurality of types of storage media of different shapes and specifications and including:

detection terminals ~~provided~~ for <u>detecting a state of connection of</u> respective ones of the storage media of the plurality of types ~~for detecting state of connection of each storage medium; and~~

input/output terminals for ~~inputting data to and outputting data from~~ <u>inputting and outputting bi-directional input/output data to and from</u> a storage medium whose connection has been detected by said detection terminals<u>;</u>

<u>buffers connected to the input/output terminals and holding at least one of output data and bi-directional input/output data, wherein the number of output signal buffers for holding output data and the number of input/output signal buffers for holding bi-directional input/output data is controllably settable;</u>

<u>interface controllers for controlling interface to respective ones of the storage media of the plurality of types; and</u>

<u>control means between the interface controllers and the buffers, for selecting one interface controller from among the interface controllers and connecting the selected interface controller to the buffers, and for setting the number of output signal buffers and</u>

the number of input/output signal buffers, wherein the selecting and the setting are based on signals from the detection terminals,

~~, the number of input/output terminals being equal to the number of input/output signals of whichever storage medium has the largest number of input/output signals among the storage media of the plurality of types,~~

said slot unit being capable of having storage media of a plurality of types insertable therein,

wherein the printing apparatus is so adapted that it is possible to print image data that has been stored on the storage media.

9. (Original) A storage media control circuit for controlling inputs to and outputs from a plurality of types of storage media of different shapes and specifications, comprising:

detection means for detecting the type of a storage medium that undergoes input/output of data;

buffers for holding input data or output data with regard to this storage medium;

first control means, which correspond to respective ones of the plurality of storage media, for performing control for accessing the storage media;

selection means for selecting said buffers; and

second control means for controlling selection of said first control means and said selection means in accordance with result of detection by said detection means.

10. to 11. (Canceled)

12. (New) The circuit according to claim 1, the control means further comprising:

a first selector for bi-directional input/output signals, which is connected to the interface controllers and the buffers; and

a second selector for output signals, which is connected to the interface controllers and the buffers.